eDof(Extend Depth of Field)

Wang Wei (May 30, 2024)

1 INTRODUCTION

China represents the most fiercely competitive market for smartphones globally, with mobile photography being a critical feature(see Fig. 1). Since 2023, leading smartphone manufacturers have increasingly focused on telephoto photography capabilities. Despite continuous advancements in optical lenses and sensors, the limited depth of field often prevents the subject from being fully captured. Extend Depth of Field (eDof) technology addresses this issue by analyzing the sequence of images captured during continuous zoom of a smartphone lens, extracting the relatively clear regions from each frame, and then combining these regions based on their positions to form a new image with full depth of field.

Fig. 1. Promotional materials from smartphone companies like Xiaomi.

Figure 2 demonstrates the eDof technology I designed and developed, featured in the Xiaomi 14 Ultra, the highest-end flagship model released at the end of February this year. The native camera UI (at the top of the preview frame) allows consumers to switch to the "Depth Extension" mode with a tap. Once the user clicks the shutter button, it takes just 0.7 seconds to capture a sequence of seven 4K images at different focal points and synthesize a full-depth image.

Fig. 2. Camera interface of Xiaomi 14 Ultra demonstrating the eDof technology.

2 FRAMEWORK

Within a brief three-month period (August to November 2023), the entire pipeline was designed, programmed, tested, optimized, and launched from scratch. Due to commercial competition restrictions, Figure 3 only provides a rough overview of the eDof process. The entire eDof pipeline includes three main modules: an optical flow-based image registration model (0.45s), a monocular depth detection model (0.12s), and a clarity detection module (0.21s). The image registration training data uses the inference results of large models such as RAFT[1] as ground truth for both unsupervised and supervised learning, while the monocular depth detection model uses the inference results of the Marigold[2] model as partial ground truth.

Figure 4 illustrates the input frames and the final synthesized full-depth image of the eDof algorithm.

Figure 5 compares our eDof algorithm with Photoshop, showing that in over 1000 sets of images across more than 30 scenes, our algorithm significantly outperforms Photoshop in terms of clarity detection accuracy, edge transitions, and time performance (Photoshop often requires around 30 seconds for seven 4K images, excluding image import time).
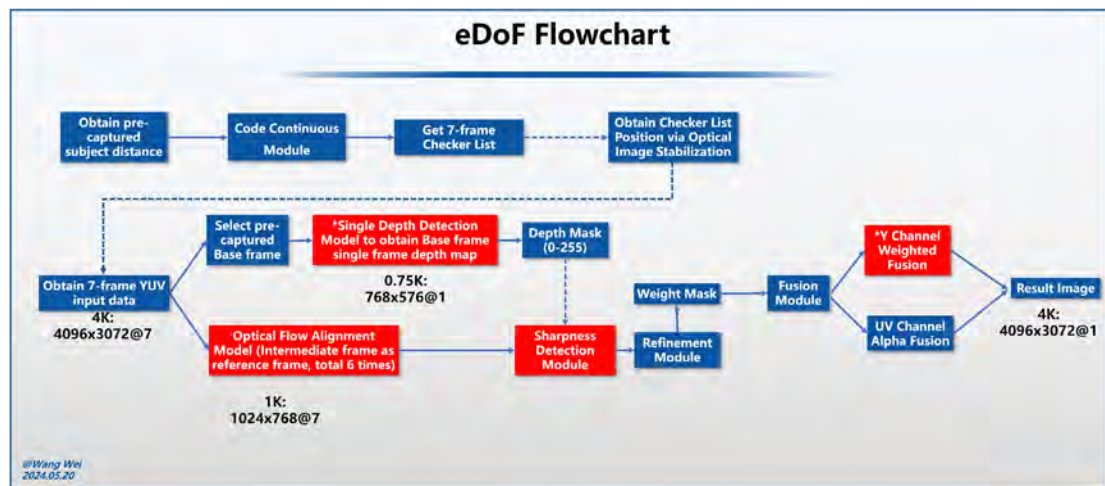
Fig. 3. Overview of the eDof scheme.

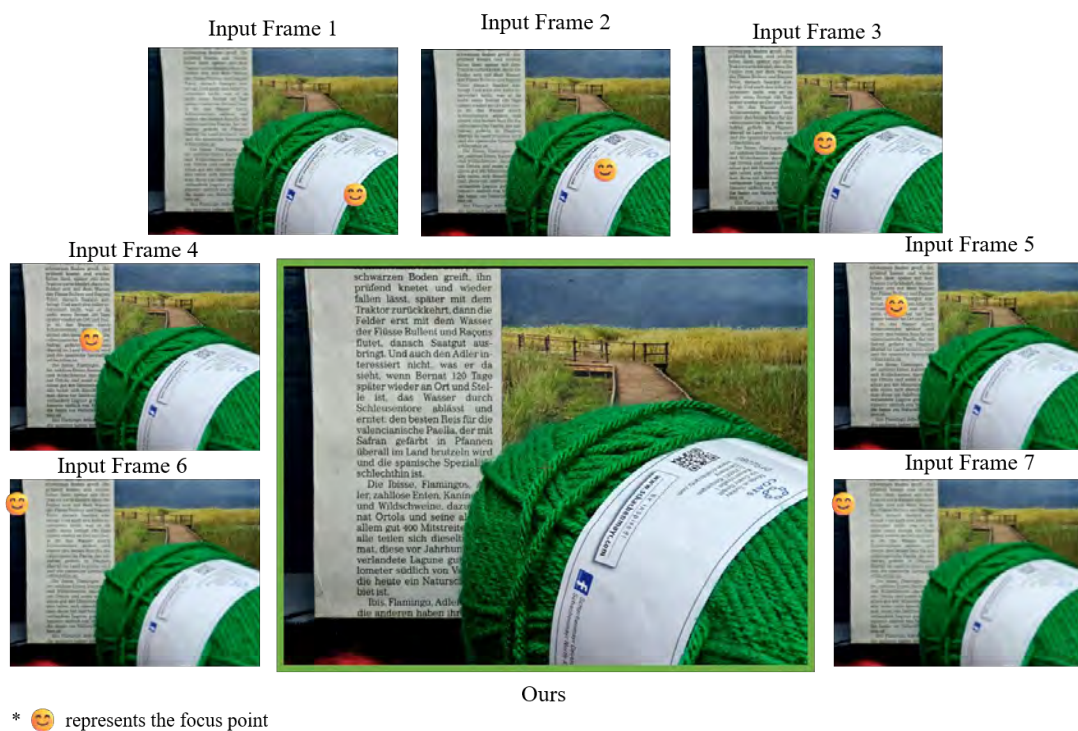* 😊 represents the focus point

Fig. 4. Input frames and the synthesized full-depth image of the eDof algorithm.
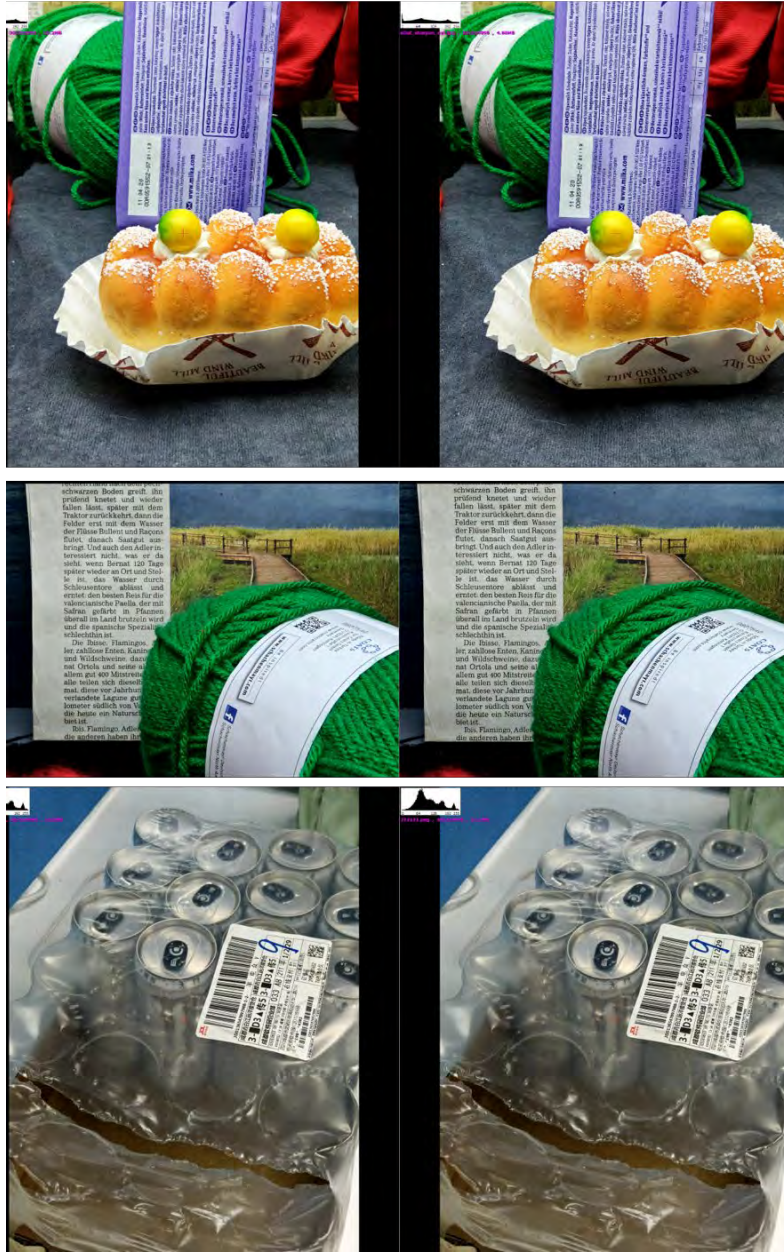
Photoshop   VS   Ours

Fig. 5. Comparison between our eDof algorithm and Photoshop.

3   MEDIA REPORTS

With the release of the Xiaomi 14 Ultra, the eDof algorithm has received widespread acclaim on social media, as shown in Figure 6. I take great pride in seeing my algorithm being invoked repeatedly across millions of devices, bringing emotional resonance to consumers through imagery. This is a significant motivation and reason for my pursuit of a Ph.D.
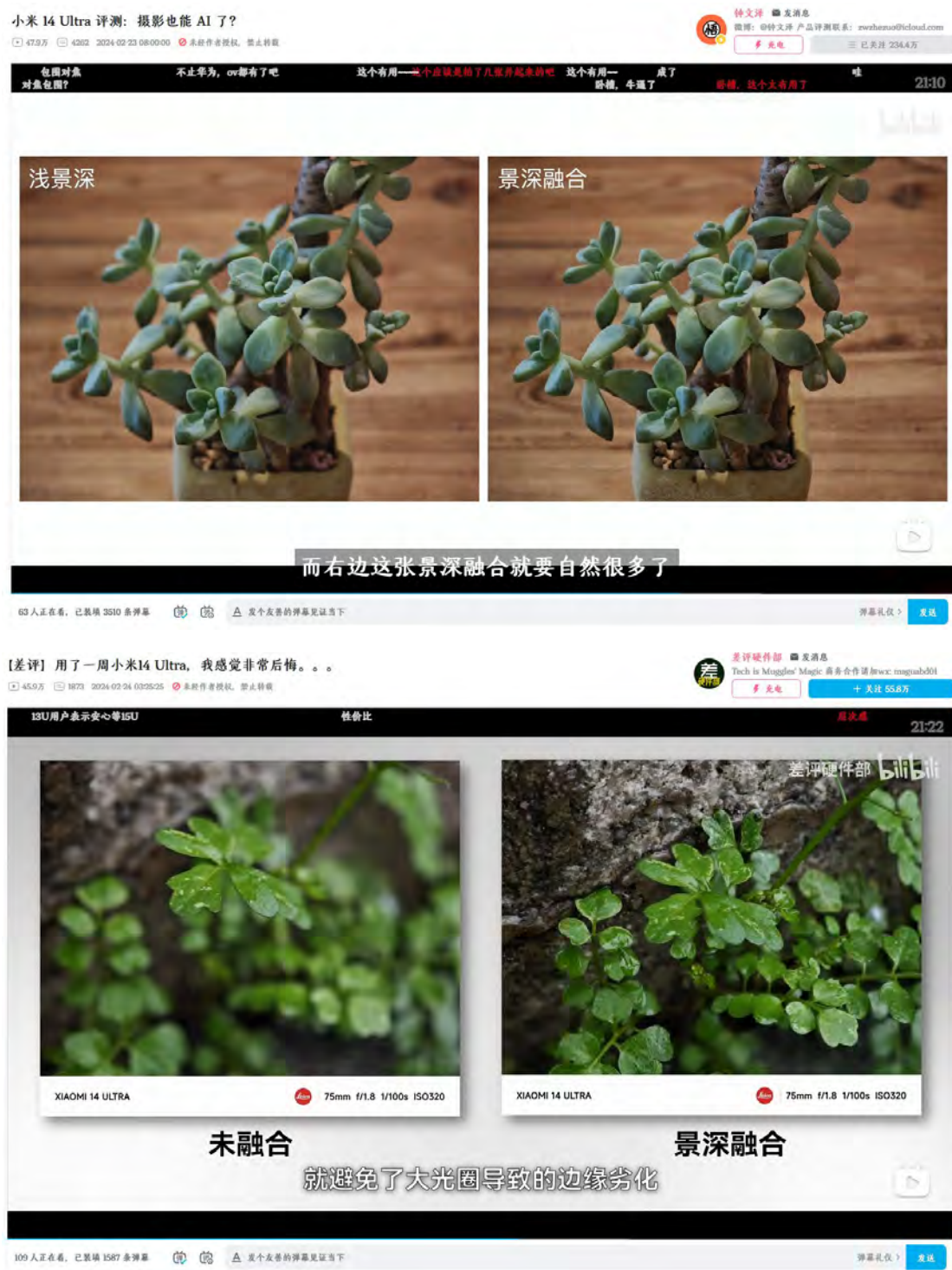
XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　120mm f/2.5 1/100s
2024.03.16

XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　75mm f/1.8 1/54s
2024.03.04 18:23:50

关于这次小米14 Ultra的相机，我比较喜欢的一个功能…
花生说　👍 90

小米14Ultra的长焦微距有一个"景深融合"功能，感觉没怎…
薛定谔的英短咕咕咕　👍 529

XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　75mm f/1.8 1/100s
2024.03.29 07:31:58

XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　75mm f/1.8 1/100s ISO320

小米14 Ultra这颗3.2倍镜头长焦微距支持调节景深，分为…
小白测评　👍 248

小米14ultra长焦这个景深融合效果还不错，手持的情况下…
6GHz　👍 251

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「科技美学」详细测试 小米14 Ultra | 6499元起售 AI大模型加持 全新一代影像旗舰 徕卡四摄六焦段

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绝了
还在3%呢 把4000以上机器统计看看是百分之几

景深不同了怎么光圈还一样

这代14u感觉拍照已经没有那
有点浮啊

浅景深　　　　景深融合

XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　75mm f/1.8 1/100s ISO64
XIAOMI 14 ULTRA　75mm f/1.8 1/100s ISO64

在相同的距离下实现景深扩展

△　外观做工　｜　屏幕显示　｜　四摄六焦段优…

61人正在看，已装填 4044 条弹幕　发个友善的弹幕见证当下　弹幕礼仪 ＞　发送

👍 2.0万　3484　⭐ 2075　　　AI提摘要总结　记笔记　　弹幕列表

Fig. 6. Social media reviews of eDof in China, including platforms similar to Instagram, X, and YouTube.

[1]   Teed Z, Deng J. Raft: Recurrent all-pairs field transforms for optical flow[C]//Computer Vision–ECCV 2020: 16th European Conference, Glasgow, UK, August 23–28, 2020, Proceedings, Part II 16. Springer International Publishing, 2020: 402-419.

[2]   Ke B, Obukhov A, Huang S, et al. Repurposing diffusion-based image generators for monocular depth estimation[J]. arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.02145, 2023.